Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 20. (canceled)

21. (new) A document search method for finding a document relevant to a search condition from object documents as search objects, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a seed text which is inputted as the search condition;

partitioning the object document into a plurality of blocks;

calculating a similarity of each block of the object document to the seed text;

judging whether or not the calculated similarity of each block satisfies a predetermined condition;

calculating a similarity of the object document as a whole to the seed text, based on the calculated similarity of each block to the seed text;

calculating, as an inclusion degree for each object document, a ratio of the number of blocks that are judged as satisfying said predetermined condition to the total number of the plurality of blocks resulting from the partitioning of the object document;

outputting for display a list of object documents showing each object document in association with the calculated inclusion degree therefor, and in association with the similarity of each listed object document as a whole to the seed text;

providing an interface for setting a threshold value for said inclusion degree and a threshold value for said similarity; and

displaying only those object documents in the form of a list of search results that satisfy both of or one of said threshold values.

22. (new) A document search system for finding a document relevant to a search condition from object documents as search objects, comprising:

a seed test acquisition module which acquires a seed text as the search condition;

a partitioning module which partitions the object document into a plurality of blocks;

a similarity calculation module which calculates a similarity of each block of the object document to the seed text;

an inclusion degree calculation module which judges whether or not the calculated similarity of each block satisfies a predetermined condition; calculates a similarity of the object document as a whole to the seed text, based on the calculated similarity of each block to the seed text; and calculates, as an inclusion degree for each object document, a ratio of the number of blocks that are judged as satisfying said predetermined condition to the total number of the plurality of blocks resulting from the partitioning of the object document;

an output module which outputs for display a list of object documents showing each object document in association with the calculated inclusion degree therefor, and in association with the similarity of each listed object document as a whole to the seed text; and

an interface for setting a threshold value for said inclusion degree and a threshold value for said similarity;

wherein the output module further outputs for display only those object documents in the form of a list of search results that satisfy both of or one of said threshold values.

23. (new) A document search method for finding a document relevant to a search condition from object documents as search objects, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a seed text which is inputted as the search condition;

partitioning the object document into a plurality of blocks;

calculating similarity of each block of the object document to the seed text;

judging whether or not the calculated similarity of each block satisfies a predetermined condition;

calculating a similarity of the object document as a whole to the seed text, based on the calculated similarity of each block to the seed text;

calculating, as an inclusion degree for each object document, a ratio of the number of blocks that are judged as satisfying said predetermined condition to the total number of the plurality of blocks resulting from the partitioning of the object document;

outputting for display a list of object documents showing each object document in association with the calculated inclusion degree therefor, and in association with the similarity of each listed object document as a whole to the seed text;

providing an interface for setting sort keys with respect to said inclusion degree and said similarity; and

re-sorting values in the list of object documents based on a selected key.

24. (new) A document search system for finding a document relevant to a search condition from object documents as search objects, comprising the steps of:

a seed text acquisition module which acquires a seed text as the search condition;

a partitioning module which partitions the object document into a plurality of blocks;

a similarity calculation module which calculates a similarity of each block of the object document to the seed text;

an inclusion degree calculation module which judges whether or not the calculated similarity of each block satisfies a predetermined condition; calculates a similarity of the object document as a whole to the seed text, based on the calculated similarity of each block to the seed text; and calculates, as an inclusion degree for each object document, a ratio of the number of blocks that are judged as satisfying said predetermined condition to the total number of the plurality of blocks resulting from the partitioning of the object document;

an output module which outputs for display a list of object documents showing each object document in association with the calculated inclusion degree therefor, and in association with the similarity of each listed object document as a whole to the seed text; and

an interface for setting sort keys with respect to said inclusion degree and said similarity;

wherein the output module further outputs, for display, values in the list of object documents that are re-sorted based on a selected key.